

Hey colonists!

Use your common sense!

On February 14, 1776, Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *Common Sense*, was published in Philadelphia. This important document explained the many reasons why Paine thought the American colonies should be independent from Great Britain. Many colonists who read his pamphlet came to agree with his ideas. For this reason, this document is seen as a very important piece of Patriot literature. (Over 500,000 copies of this 47 page pamphlet were sold in a matter of months in the colonies.)



So what was the big deal? Use your common sense to **summarize these passages** in your own words, and then **answer the questions at the end**.

A couple of pieces of advice: use a dictionary to look up words you don't know, and remember that people used to spell some words differently. ☺

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In his introduction, Paine wrote:

“PERHAPS the sentiments contained in the following pages, are not yet sufficient to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defence of custom. But the tumult soon subsides.”

He was saying:

.....
He also wrote:

“There is something very absurd in supporting a continent to be perpetually [forever] governed by an island.”

He was saying:

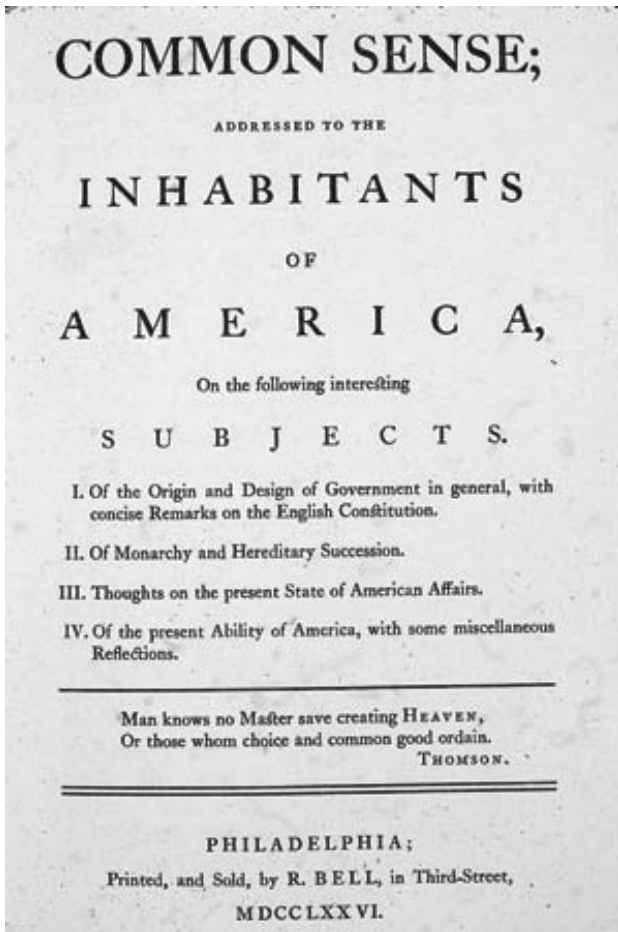
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At another point in the pamphlet, he wrote:

“I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connexion with Great-Britain, that the same connexion is necessary towards her future happiness, and will always have the same effect. Nothing can be more fallacious than this kind of argument. We may as well assert that because a child has thrived upon milk, that it is never to have meat, or that the first twenty years of our lives is to become a precedent for the next twenty.”

He was saying:

Now answer these questions using complete sentences:



1. Is this a primary or secondary source?
Why?

2. **Infer:** Why do you think he chose to call his pamphlet *Common Sense*? _____

Quotes from Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, (Mineola: Dover Publications, Inc., 1997). Pages 1, 19, & 33, respectively.
Bloom's Taxonomy: Level III Application (10 points)